



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE

KC MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS, FOLLOWING FEDERAL JURY CONVICTION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today after a federal jury found him guilty of being a felon in possession of three firearms. Today's sentencing, Graves said, is the result of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Geoffrey L. Rashaw, 41, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to 30 years in federal prison without parole after a federal jury found him guilty of three counts of an indictment charging him with various firearms violations.

The court sentenced **Rashaw** on three separate counts of an indictment and ordered that each would be served consecutively, Graves said, resulting in a total of 30 years in federal prison. The court ordered that the sentences would be served consecutively after finding that **Rashaw** had used a firearm in the commission of a double homicide that took place on March 5, 2002.

On Jan. 8, 2004, **Rashaw** was found guilty by a federal jury of all three counts of an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on May 7, 2003, in Kansas City.

The federal jury found **Rashaw** guilty of being a felon in possession of a Westernfield 12-gauge shotgun and a Iver Johnson 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun on March 5 and March 6, 2002, and a Norinco MAK-90 Sporter rifle on May 12, 2003. In possessing the sawed-off shotgun, the jury also found **Rashaw** guilty of possessing a firearm that was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Rashaw** has a 1989 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow